

**BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY**

**NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE**

**October 15, 1999**

**IN RE:**

**AREA CODE CONSERVATION  
MEASURES IN TENNESSEE**

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**DOCKET NO. 99-00784**

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**REQUEST TO ALL AFFECTED TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE PROVIDERS  
AND COOPERATIVES IN TENNESSEE TO TAKE VOLUNTARY AREA CODE  
CONSERVATION MEASURES**

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On October 12, 1999, the Tennessee Regulatory Authority ("TRA" or "Authority") unanimously resolved to petition the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") for authority to implement number conservation measures, including, but not limited to, 1000 block pooling and reclamation.<sup>1</sup> In conjunction with this action, the Authority urged all affected and relevant Tennessee telecommunications service providers, including cooperatives, to consider taking voluntary measures towards area code conservation, including, but not limited to, voluntarily relinquishing any non-utilized or otherwise dormant inventory of NXX codes.

On February 2, 1999, the Authority commissioned the Tennessee Telecommunications Association to form an Area Code Conservation Task Force to research and explore options and

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<sup>1</sup> The FCC has been delegated authority by Congress to oversee the North American Numbering System. While the FCC has delegated to the states the authority to select relief plans, it continues to maintain jurisdiction over number conservation measures.

measures that may be taken for numbering resource conservation.<sup>2</sup> The Task Force is to report its findings, conclusions, and recommendations to the Authority as soon as is practicable. A report should be issued by the end of the year.

On June 14, 1999, the North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA), Lockheed Martin IMS, notified the Authority that the 615 Numbering Plan Area (“NPA”) would exhaust during the fourth quarter of the year 2000. Soon thereafter, NANPA, the Telecommunications industry, and the Authority began discussing various relief alternatives. Additionally, the Authority undertook, and continues to implement, certain educational and informational measures to alert and inform the public.

Recently, MCIWorldCom, Inc. (“MCIWorldCom”) announced in a September 28, 1999, letter to the FCC that it was in the process of returning 77 NXX codes – or 770,000 telephone numbers – to NANPA.<sup>3</sup> In its announcement, MCIWorldCom urged “all service providers, including CLECs, ILECs, and providers of wireless services, to act prudently” and not maintain an inventory larger than required to meet the needs of customers.

Consistent with the Authority’s continuing efforts in identifying and promoting conservation strategies, the Authority hereby urges all affected and relevant Tennessee telecommunications service providers and cooperatives to review their inventories, consider the widespread area code relief activity now under way, and voluntarily return non-utilized or otherwise dormant NXX codes to NANPA.

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<sup>2</sup> The Task Force is composed of both wireline and wireless carriers and Authority Staff. Further, the National Regulatory Research Institute is assisting the Task Force with a number utilization study.

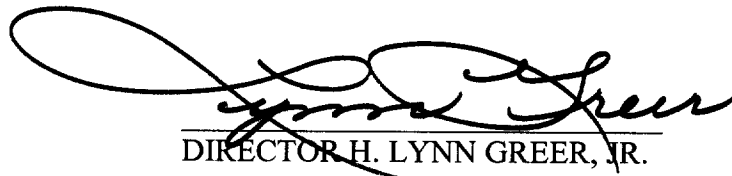
<sup>3</sup> Bell Atlantic has also been active in pursuing certain conservation measures.

**IT IS THEREFORE REQUESTED THAT:**

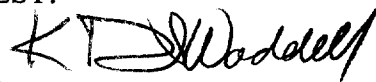
1. All affected telecommunications service providers and cooperatives in Tennessee consider taking voluntary measures towards area code conversation, including, but not limited to, voluntarily relinquishing any non-utilized NXX codes.
2. Any provider who voluntarily undertakes such measures notify the Authority of the same.

  
CHAIRMAN MELVIN J. MALONE

  
DIRECTOR SARA KYLE

  
DIRECTOR H. LYNN GREER, JR.

ATTEST:

  
Executive Secretary